



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

MEDIA RELEASE

WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALL AFTER MILL ANNOUNCEMENT

Just as in the 1990's, Tasmania's North-West will need to work together to overcome the impact of the Tas Paper mill closure says the Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom.

Mr Sidebottom said despite many months of expectation the announcement by Paperlinx was still hard to stomach, and the consequences would reach right across the region.

"I have been to the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and senior ministers to do everything I can to make sure that we can respond to reduce the fallout from this decision," Mr Sidebottom said.

"Together with Minister for Industry Kim Carr, I have met with the company on a number of occasions to look at the best response for the Federal Government.

"For months we have also worked closely with the company, unions and the State Government to be ready for whatever decision was finally made."

He said the \$20 million investment fund has been designed to help promote new businesses and innovation for the region, already reeling from other significant job cuts and planned cutbacks.

Mr Sidebottom said that there was still an outside chance a buyer could be found for the remaining Burnie operations, but was pleased that the Rudd and Bartlett governments had been able to provide significant support.

"This may signal the end of a major part of the region's industrial history, but I believe we can work together to create a new era by building on the incredible skills and reputation that the people of Tasmania's North-West have," he said.

"Together with Minister Carr and the Rudd Government, I will do everything I can to help make that future as realistic and sustainable as possible."

"This region has done it in the past and can do it again for it has the skills, resources, the smarts and the support to do so," Mr Sidebottom said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355